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Finally, I might mention, with regard to nomenclature, that most botanists here follow the Kew Gardens authorities. We employ the term *Nephrodium* where you prefer *Dryopteris*, though fern cultivators in particular also use the name *Lastraea*. Our prickly shield ferns we call *Aspidium* (though here again *Polystichum* is still frequently used). The oak and the beech ferns are classed under *Polypodium* because of their round, naked sori. The lady fern, as previously mentioned, is not placed under *Asplenium* by all, as indeed it bears no resemblance to the spleenworts, which are evergreen, rock-loving plants.

I have, of course, omitted to mention several British species which you do not have, but perhaps sufficient has been said for a general comparison of the ferns of the two countries. I personally retain the most pleasant memories of the hours I spent studying the New England ferns, and if it be possible, should like nothing better than another holiday on your side of the Atlantic.

ROYAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOSPITAL.

Notes and news

THE FRAGRANT SHIELD FERN

MR. EDITOR:

When just about ready to send you, for the JOURNAL, something about my experience with *Dryopteris fragrans*, by accident I learned that soon after I lost a valued friend, and correspondent in ferns, of years before, the FERN BULLETIN had published for the second time a part of that experience. So let me call this experience Continued. I hope not Concluded, for I want to climb old Mansfield five or six times more. And my "gala days," as I called that of my first view of the *fragrans*,

have been very intimately associated with those little Alpine ferns. Of course, not quite like the first sight, but there are others that last longer, as memory pictures, than those early photographs did. (Of my Andover photo of Prof. Park, most of the outline is gone, leaving only the eyes.)

I have found the *fragrans* a good many times since that first day. Sitting wearily one day on a hotel porch, I carelessly turned the spy-glass along the face of a nearby almost perpendicular cliff, when suddenly, those little curling ringlet fronds burst into view. Not in the right place, too much exposed, wrong side of the cliff, yet there it was. With unusual self control I examined the apparent possibilities and quickly rested, I started out with a younger friend (now an expert botanist), then not a very corpulent or clumsy young man. We climbed along a narrow shelf till under it. I stood up and held on to the cliff, and as I remember it, he stood on my shoulders, and reached and dropped a part of the fern. And thereby hangs a tale. Sometime after, Mrs. Parsons (Dana), preparing "How to Find the Ferns," wrote asking where I last found the fern, saying she wanted to gather it herself. In her book the printer made me say it was my "first" time, but she asked for the last, provisionally. I told her, but added I doubted her success in gathering it. Was I ungallant in not offering to assist her?

One other experience note—The fragrance.

I think it was Clute who made the mistake in an early *Bulletin* of calling the *Dicksonia* the fragrant fern. Its odor is more like that of *Symplocarpus* than like that of the *Dryopteris*. But I have learned this—at only one part of its season is the *fragrans* really fragrant. Once I hit it just in time. Several young ladies to whom I gave fronds declared it the best of perfumes. The handkerchief, in which I dropped it from the cliff, on one

occasion, kept its delightful perfume for a long time.

I have found the *fragrans* again when it was fragrant, but only once in its glory. I think the young viscid fronds are the most fragrant of our vegetable life. I'd like to send you two or three fronds next summer to perfume a whole edition of the FERN JOURNAL.

Yours,

JAMES A. BATES.

Note on Korean Ferns.

The following extract is from a letter recently received from Korea:

"Although I am by profession a geologist, I have a keen interest in plants, especially in the lower orders. I have read with interest of the work of the Arnold Arboretum people in China and Tibet, and I feel sure that many things of interest are among the flora of Korea. I have a good opportunity to observe the flora while traveling among the mountains. I have observed last year twenty-three species of ferns, including a species of the "walking fern," very similar in appearance to one I have observed in the Ozarks of Missouri; also a species of *Osmunda* similar to the *O. cinnamomea* I have seen at Starved Rock, Illinois.

"I can lay no claim to a knowledge of systematic botany beyond a little work done long ago, but if I can assist anyone else by collecting and sending some of the plants, especially the ferns from Korea, I shall be glad to do so."

D. F. HIGGINS,

Hol Kol, Korea.

c-o Seoul Mining Co.